GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2365
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2017
EPFOâ€™s Tie-up with Banks
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether EPFO has entered into agreement for collection of EPF dues from employers and payment to beneficiaries as well through multiple-banks, in place of erstwhile single banking system, if so, the details thereof;
(b)whether EPFO is one of the largest social security providers with a corpus of rupees 12 lakh crore and it has a contributing membership of 4.5 crore and services about 20 crore accounts and if so, the details thereof;
(c)whether it is a fact that EPFO collects around rupees Seventy-five
thousand crores annually from the establishments covered under the Act and if so, the details thereof;
(d)whether Trade Unions have demanded retirement schemes for workers in the unorganised sectors, who constitute more than 90 per cent of the country's workforce and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
(e)whether the Government has reviewed the labour welfare initiatives and the new initiatives proposed in the context of evolving economic, political and social conditions and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)
(a): Yes, Madam. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has tied up/entered into arrangement agreement with ten banks to collect EPFO dues and to make payments of Provident Fund (PF) withdrawals, pension and insurance to EPFO beneficiaries. These banks are State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank, Allahabad Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank.
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The main objective of the multi banking arrangement is to provide more options to the employers to remit the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contribution directly from their bank accounts. This will not only make them cost effective but also ensure real time transfer of funds through net banking.
(b): As on 31.03.2016, EPFO has a corpus of Rs.10,43,581.47 crores with contributing membership of 3.76 crores and 17.44 crores annual accounts.
(c): As per Balance Sheet for the financial year 2015-16, EPFO's total collection is 1,04,651.83 crores. Scheme-wise details are as under:
EPF Scheme A/c : Rs.70388.70 crores
EPS Scheme A/c : Rs.29249.60 crores
EDLI Scheme A/c: Rs.1245.97 crores
EPF Administration A/c: Rs.3648.98 crores
EDLI Administration A/c: Rs. 118.58 crores

(d): In order to provide social security benefits to the workers in the unorganised sector, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The said Act stipulates formulation of suitable welfare schemes for unorganised workers on matters relating to: (i) life and disability cover, (ii) health and maternity benefits, (iii) old age protection and (iv) any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government through the National Social Security Board. In this regard, various schemes have been formulated by the line Ministries at the Centre to provide social security cover to the unorganized workers.
(e): The review of various welfare initiatives is an ongoing process like revision in the threshold limit for coverage under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, enhancement of the benefit payable under the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, revision of minimum wages in the Central sphere, enhancement of paid maternity leave, etc.
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